

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

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47

ACTION COME-00

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 EB-11 TAR-02 RSC-01 DRC-01 /041 W

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FM AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4118

UNCLAS REYKJAVIK 1360

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: BGEN IC

SUBJECT: ICELANDIC DUTY ON FOUR-WHEEL DRIVE MOTOR VEHICLES

REF: STATE 224220

1. DESPITE LONG-STANDING RUMOR THAT DUTY ON FOUR-WHEEL DRIVE VEHICLES WOULD BE RAISED FROM PRESENT 40-PERCENT CIF TO THE 90-PERCENT CIF APPLICABLE TO STANDARD PASSENGER VEHICLES, PERMSEC, MINISTRY OF FINANCE, AND SENIOR OFFICIAL AT ICELANDIC CUSTOMS SAY DUTY WILL REMAIN AT PRESENT LEVEL. BILL DEALING WITH CERTAIN CHANGES IN DUTY NECESSITATED BY ICELAND'S MEMBERSHIP IN EFTA AND BY PENDING FREE TRADE AGREEMENT WITH EEC IS NOW BEING DRAFTED IN MINISTRY OF FINANCE. IT WILL BE PRESENTED TO ALTHING SHORTLY AND MUST BE PASSED BEFORE END OF YEAR. ACCORDING TO PERMSEC BILL CONTAINS NO PROVISION FOR CHANGE IN DUTY ON MOTOR VEHICLES AND MATTER IS NOT UNDER CONSIDERATION.

2. IN ADDITION TO 40-PERCENT OR 90-PERCENT CIF TARIFF, GOI LEVIES 25-PERCENT SPECIAL AUTOMOBILE IMPORT CHARGE ON CIF VALUE, A TIRE TAX OF IKR. 45 PER KILO OF TIRE WEIGHT, AND A 13-PERCENT SALES TAX ON TOTAL OF CIF VALUE, PLUS TARIFF, AND TIRE TAX.
IRVING

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